DAVIDOFF HUTCHER & CITRON LLP

605 Third Avenue
New York, New York 10158
212.557.7200 (tel)
David H. Wander, Esq. (dhw@dhclegal.com)
Alexander R. Tiktin, Esq. (art@dhclegal.com)

Attorneys for Counsel Financial Financial II LLC, LIG Capital LLC, and Counsel Financial Holdings LLC

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

MOTION BY COUNSEL FINANCIAL II LLC, LIG CAPITAL LLC, AND COUNSEL FINANCIAL HOLDINGS LLC FOR PERMISSION TO APPEAL TO DISTRICT COURT FROM INTERLOCUTORY ORDER GRANTING FEE AWARD PURSUANT TO 28 <u>U.S.C.</u> § 1292(b) AND 28 U.S.C. § 158

TO THE HONORABLE JUDGE OF THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT:

Counsel Financial II LLC ("<u>CFII</u>"), LIG Capital LLC ("<u>LIG</u>"), and Counsel Financial Holdings LLC ("<u>Holdings</u>" and together with LIG and CFII, collectively "<u>Counsel Financial</u>"), by their attorneys, Davidoff Hutcher & Citron LLP, as and for their motion for permission to appeal to the District Court from an interlocutory order authorizing payment of interim

¹ References to "Doc." refer to documents filed on the docket in this bankruptcy case, 19-12346-shl, unless otherwise noted.

compensation to the Debtor's professionals pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1292(b) and 28 U.S.C. § 158, submits:

- 1. On July 22, 2019, Liddle & Robinson, L.L.P. (the "<u>Debtor</u>" or "<u>L&R</u>") filed a voluntary petition for relief under Chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code. *Doc. 1*.
- 2. Counsel Financial is a secured creditor of L&R, with a duly perfected lien on all of L&R's assets. Counsel Financial seeks leave to appeal the Bankruptcy Court's Order Authorizing Certain Payments Pursuant to Monthly Fee Statements, entered on January 15, 2020, and annexed hereto as **Exhibit A** (the "Order").
- 3. On December 19, 2019, the Bankruptcy Court ordered the appointment of a Chapter 11 Trustee for the Debtor, pursuant to 11 U.S.C. § 1104(d). *Doc. 201*. On January 6, 2020, Jonathan L. Flaxer was appointed as the Chapter 11 Trustee.
- 4. Prior to appointment of the Chapter 11 Trustee, the Debtor retained Foley Hoag, LLP ("Foley") as its attorneys, EisnerAmper LLP ("EisnerAmper") as its accountants, and The Benefits Practice ("Benefits") as its benefits consultant.
- 5. Golenbock Eiseman Assor Bell ("<u>Golenbock</u>"), is now being retained as counsel for the Chapter 11 Trustee. The Chapter 11 Trustee is also seeking to retain CBIZ MHM ("<u>CBIZ</u>") as his accountant.
- 6. On December 5, 2019, the Debtor filed an interim fee application for Foley requesting fees of \$431,647.20, and expenses of \$6,385.65, in the total amount of \$438,032.85.

 Doc. 152 (the "Foley Fee Application").
- 7. On December 5, 2019, the Debtor filed an interim fee application for Benefits, requesting fees of \$7,512.50. *Doc. 153* (the "Benefits Fee Application").

- 8. On December 5, 2019, the Debtor filed an interim fee application for EisnerAmper, requesting fees of \$27,896.50, and expenses of \$89.30, in the total amount of \$27,985.80. *Doc.* 154 (the "EisnerAmper Fee Application").
- 9. On December 12, 2019, Counsel Financial filed an objection to the Foley Fee Application, the Benefits Fee Application, and the EisnerAmper Fee Application (collectively, the "Objections"). *Doc. 160.* Under binding Second Circuit precedent, payment to the Debtor's professionals could not be made without Counsel Financial's consent, unless the Debtor made a showing of the requisite "benefit" to Counsel Financial.
- 10. On December 19, 2019, the Bankruptcy Court held a hearing on the Fee Applications and the Objections (the "Hearing").
- On January 15, 2020, the Bankruptcy Court entered an order approving (i) payment to Foley of \$261,232.76, (ii) payment to EisnerAmper of \$12,376.86, and (iii) payment to Benefits of the retainer it previously received in the amount of \$7,308.60. *Doc. 205* (the "Order").
 - 12. Movant seeks leave to appeal from the Order, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 158(a).

There are Sufficient Grounds to Permit this Appeal

- 13. Leave to appeal is to be liberally granted where it can help the expeditious resolution of the case. *In re Johns–Manville Corp.*, 45 B.R. 833, 835 (S.D.N.Y. 1984). The standard to be applied in considering whether to grant leave to appeal an interlocutory order is found in 28 U.S.C. § 1292(b). Leave should be granted if there are controlling questions of law as to which there are substantial grounds for difference of opinion and if an immediate appeal from the order may materially advance the ultimate termination of the litigation. *Id*.
- 14. While a debtor in possession "may recover from property securing an allowed secured claim the reasonable, necessary costs and expenses of preserving, or disposing of, such

property to the extent of any benefit to the holder of such claim, under § 506(c), absent an agreement to the contrary, a secured creditor's collateral may only be charged for administrative expenses, including attorney's fees, to the extent these expenses directly benefited that secured creditor. *See General Elec. Credit Corp. v. Levin & Weintraub (In re Flagstaff Foodservice Corp.*), 739 F.2d 73, 76 (2d Cir.1984); *In re Kohl*, 421 B.R. 115 (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. 2009) (to recover expenses of preserving or disposing of collateral from secured creditor under Bankruptcy Code, the trustee or DIP must show that the expenditure (i) was incurred primarily for the benefit of the secured creditor and (ii) that the secured creditor directly benefited from the expenditure).

- 15. For purposes of a debtor in possession or trustee's ability to recover expenses incurred to preserve or dispose of collateral, a secured creditor is interpreted as having received a benefit if the expense preserved the value of creditor's collateral. *In re Kohl*, 421 B.R. at 123. Alternatively, expenses are properly charged against a secured creditor if it has consented to pay the expenses. *Flagstaff I*, 739 F.2d at 77.²
- 16. Counsel Financial has repeatedly stated that it does not consent to its cash collateral being used for payment of the Debtor's professional fees. None of the services rendered, to date, appear to have provided any benefit to CF2, LIG or Holdings, and no reasonable creditor would have incurred such fees to protect its collateral.

Hearing Tr., Doc. 204, 117: 16-22.

² The Bankruptcy Court may have conflated the applicable standard under 11 U.S.C. § 506(c) with the standard for use of cash collateral under 11 U.S.C. § 363:

MR. WANDER: I have one other point. One last point. I believe the Court has conflated the standard for cash collateral with payment of fees. I believe they're a different standard. It's not adequate protection.

THE COURT: The use of your cash collateral -- you're entitled to adequate protection for the use of your cash collateral. Is that not a correct statement of the law?

19-12346-shl Doc 214 Filed 01/29/20 Entered 01/29/20 20:48:53 Main Document Pg 5 of 13

17. A decision under § 506(c) of the Bankruptcy Code is considered final for purposes

of appeal so long as it does not involve continuing services or obligations. *In re Beker Indus. Corp.*,

89 B.R. 336, 340 (S.D.N.Y. 1988). Here, the services of Foley, EisenerAmper, and Benefits have

been cut off due to appointment of the Chapter 11 Trustee who has retained Golenbock as counsel

and, upon information and belief, has retained CBIZ as accountant. Accordingly, the fee statements

submitted in connection with this appeal are final, because Foley, EisnerAmper, and Benefits will

provide no further services to the Debtor.

CONCUSION

18. In accordance with the foregoing, Counsel Financial submits that this appeal

presents a significant issue of law under 11 U.S.C. § 506(c), and requests leave to appeal the Order

to the District Court.

Dated: New York, New York

January 29, 2020

DAVIDOFF HUTCHER & CITRON LLP

By: /s/ David H. Wander

David H. Wander

Alexander R. Tiktin

605 Third Avenue

New York, New York 10158

(212) 557-7200

dhw@dhclegal.com

art@dhclegal.com

Attorneys for Counsel Financial II LLC.

LIG Capital LLC, and Counsel Financial Holdings LLC

5

Official Form 417A (12/18)

[Caption as in Form 416A, 416B, or 416D, as appropriate]

NOTICE OF APPEAL AND STATEMENT OF ELECTION

| <u>Part</u> | 1: Identify the appellant(s) | |
|-------------|---|--|
| 1. | Name(s) of appellant(s): Counsel Financial II LLC, LIG Capital LLC, and Counsel | sel Financial Holdings LLC. |
| 2. | Position of appellant(s) in the adversary pro appeal: | oceeding or bankruptcy case that is the subject of this |
| | For appeals in an adversary proceeding. | For appeals in a bankruptcy case and not in an adversary proceeding. |
| | Defendant Other (describe) | Debtor |
| | | ☑ Creditor ☐ Trustee |
| | | Other (describe) |
| Part 2 | 2: Identify the subject of this appea | <u>al</u> |
| 1. | Describe the judgment, order, or decree app | pealed from: Interim Fee Order |
| 2. | State the date on which the judgment, order | r, or decree was entered: |

Part 3: Identify the other parties to the appeal

List the names of all parties to the judgment, order, or decree appealed from and the names, addresses, and telephone numbers of their attorneys (attach additional pages if necessary):

| 1. | Party: | Party: Liddle & Robinson, LLP Attorne | Attorney: | : Michael Weinstein, Esq. | | | |
|----|--------|---------------------------------------|-----------|---|--|--|--|
| | | | · | Golenbock, Eiseman, Assor, Bell & Peskoe, LLP | | | |
| | | | | 711 Third Avenue, 17th Floor New York, NY 10017 | | | |
| 2. | Party: | Foley Hoag LLP | Attorney: | Foley Hoag LLP 1301 Avenue of the Americas, 25th Floor New York, NY 10019 | | | |
| | | | | New Tork, NY 10019 | | | |

NOTICE OF APPEAL AND STATEMENT OF ELECTION

Part 3: Identify the other parties to the appeal

3. EisnerAmper LLP

Attorney:

Foley Hoag LLP

1301 Avenue of the Americas, 25th Floor

New York, NY 10019

4. The Benefits Practice

Attorney:

Foley Hoag

1301 Avenue of the Americas, 25th Floor

New York, NY 10019

Part 4: Optional election to have appeal heard by District Court (applicable only in certain districts)

If a Bankruptcy Appellate Panel is available in this judicial district, the Bankruptcy Appellate Panel will hear this appeal unless, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 158(c)(1), a party elects to have the appeal heard by the United States District Court. If an appellant filing this notice wishes to have the appeal heard by the United States District Court, check below. Do not check the box if the appellant wishes the Bankruptcy Appellate Panel to hear the appeal.

| United States District Court, check below. Do not che Appellate Panel to hear the appeal. | eck the box if the appellant wishes the Bankruptcy |
|--|--|
| Appellant(s) elect to have the appeal hear the Bankruptcy Appellate Panel. | rd by the United States District Court rather than b |
| Part 5: Sign below Signature of attorney for appellant(s) (or appellant(s) if not represented by an attorney) | Date: <u>January 29, 2020</u> |
| Name, address, and telephone number of attorney (or appellant(s) if not represented by an attorney): David H. Wander, Esq. Davidoff, Hutcher, and Citron, LLP | |
| 605 3rd Ave New York, NY 10158 | |

Fee waiver notice: If appellant is a child support creditor or its representative and appellant has filed the form specified in § 304(g) of the Bankruptcy Reform Act of 1994, no fee is required.

[Note to inmate filers: If you are an inmate filer in an institution and you seek the timing benefit of Fed. R. Bankr. P. 8002(c)(1), complete Director's Form 4170 (Declaration of Inmate Filing) and file that declaration along with the Notice of Appeal.]

19-12346-shl Doc 214 Filed 01/29/20 Entered 01/29/20 20:48:53 Main Document Pg 9 of 13

JS 44C/SDNY REV. 06/01/17 CIVIL COVER SHEET

The JS-44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet.

| PLAINTIFFS Counsel Financial II LLC, LIG Capital LLC, and Counsel Financial Holdings LLC | | | | DEFENDANTS LIDDLE & ROBINSON, L.L.P., Foley Hoag, LLP, EisnerAmper LLP, The Benefits Practice | | | |
|--|---------------------------------|--|--|---|---|--|--|
| ATTORNEYS (FIRM NAME, ADDRESS, AND TELEPHONE NUMBER David H. Wander, Esq. Davidoff, Hutcher & Citron LLP 605 3rd Ave, New York, NY | | | ATTORNEYS (IF KNOWN) Foley Hoag LLP 1301 Avenue of the Americas, 25th Floor New York, NY 10019 | | | | |
| CAUSE | | | UNDER WHICH YOU ARE FI L STATUTES UNLESS DIVER | LING AND WRITE A BRIEF ST RSITY) | TATEMENT OF CAUSE) | e | |
| Appeal | concerning pro | per application of 11 U. | S.C. 506(c) to profession | onal fee application. | | | |
| Has this | action, case, or | proceeding, or one essen | tially the same been previo | ously filed in SDNY at any t | ime? No Yes 7 Ho | ge Previously Assigned n. Sean H. Lane | |
| If yes, wa | as this case Vol. | x Invol. Dismissed. | No X Yes If yes, | give date | & Case No. | 19-12346-shl | |
| Is this an i | NTERNATIONAL ARBIT | TRATION CASE? NO | × Yes | | | | |
| (PLACE | AN [x] IN ONE B | OX ONLY) | NATURE OF S | SUIT | | | |
| | | TORTS | | | ACTIONS UNDER STATUTES | | |
| CONTRACT | r | PERSONAL INJURY | PERSONAL INJURY | FORFEITURE/PENALTY | BANKRUPTCY | OTHER STATUTES | |
| []110 []120 []130 []140 []150 []151 []152 []153 []160 []195 []196 FRA REAL PROI []210 []220 []230 []240 []245 []290 | | [] 310 AIRPLANE [] 315 AIRPLANE PRODUCT LIABILITY [] 320 ASSAULT, LIBEL & SLANDER [] 330 FEDERAL EMPLOYERS' LIABILITY [] 340 MARINE [] 345 MARINE PRODUCT LIABILITY [] 350 MOTOR VEHICLE PRODUCT LIABILITY [] 360 OTHER PERSONAL INJURY [] 362 PERSONAL INJURY - MED MALPRACTICE ACTIONS UNDER STATUTES CIVIL RIGHTS [] 440 OTHER CIVIL RIGHTS (Non-Prisoner) [] 441 VOTING [] 442 EMPLOYMENT [] 443 HOUSING/ ACCOMMODATIONS [] 445 AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES - EMPLOYMENT [] 446 AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES - OTHER [] 448 EDUCATION | [] 387 HÉALTHÉARE/ PHARMACEUTICAL PERSONAL INJURY/PRODUCT LIABILITY | SEIZURE OF PROPERTY 21 USC 881 [] 690 OTHER PROPERTY RIGHTS [] 820 COPYRIGHTS [] 830 PATENT [] 835 PATENT-ABBREVIATED I [] 840 TRADEMARK LABOR [] 710 FAIR LABOR STANDARDS ACT [] 720 LABOR/MGMT RELATIONS [] 740 RAILWAY LABOR ACT [] 751 FAMILY MEDICAL LEAVE ACT (FMLA) [] 790 OTHER LABOR LITIGATION [] 791 EMPL RET INC SECURITY ACT (ERISA) IMMIGRATION [] 462 NATURALIZATION APPLICATION [] 465 OTHER IMMIGRATION ACTIONS | 300 300 | [] 375 FALSE CLAIMS [] 376 QUI TAM [] 400 STATE REAPPORTIONMENT [] 410 ANTITRUST [] 430 BANKS & BANKING [] 450 COMMERCE [] 460 DEPORTATION [] 470 RACKETEER INFLU- ENCED & CORRUPT ORGANIZATION ACT (RICO) [] 480 CONSUMER CREDIT [] 490 CABLE/SATELLITE TV [] 850 SECURITIES/ COMMODITIES/ EXCHANGE [] 890 OTHER STATUTORY ACTIONS [] 891 AGRICULTURAL ACTS [] 893 ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS [] 895 FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT [] 896 ARBITRATION [] 899 ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE ACT/REVIEW OR APPEAL OF AGENCY DECISIOI [] 950 CONSTITUTIONALITY O STATE STATUTES | |
| CH UN | IDER F.R.C.P. 2 | ACLASS ACTION | | THIS CASE IS RELATED LOCAL RULE FOR DIVIS | | PENDING IN S.D.N.Y. | |
| DEMAN | D \$280,918.2 | OTHER | JUDGE | DOCKET NUMBER | | | |
| Check YE JURY D | ES only if deman EMAND: ☐ YI | ded in complaint ∃S □NO | NOTE: You must | t also submit at the time of | filing the Statement of Re | latedness form (Form IH-32) | |

19-12346-shl Doc 214 Filed 01/29/20 Entered 01/29/20 20:48:53 Main Document Pg 10 of 13

| (PLACE AN x IN ONE E | BOX ONLY) | | ORIGIN | | | | |
|--|--------------------------------|--|---|---------------------------------------|-------------------------|--|--|
| 1 Original Proceeding | 2 Removed from State Court | 3 Remanded from Appellate | A Reinstated of Reopened | | ferred from [| ☐ 6 Multidistrict Litigation (Transferred) | 7 Appeal to District Judge from Magistrate Judge |
| | a, all parties repres | sented Court | | | | 8 Multidistrict Litiga | tion (Direct File) |
| | b. At least one par is pro se. | ty | | | | | |
| (PLACE AN x IN ONE E ☐ 1 U.S. PLAINTIFF | OX ONLY) | DANT 🗵 3 FEDERAI | IS OF JURIS L QUESTION T A PARTY) | SDICTION 4 DIVERS | BITY | | RSITY, INDICATE SHIP BELOW. |
| | CITIZENSI | HIP OF PRINCIPAL | PARTIES (I | FOR DIVERS | ITY CASE | S ONLY) | |
| (Place an [X] in or | | nd one box for Defendar | · | | | , | |
| CITIZEN OF THIS STATE | PTF DEF []1 []1 | CITIZEN OR SUBJECT OF | OF A | | | ED and PRINCIPAL F | |
| CITIZEN OF ANOTHER STA | TE []2 []2 | INCORPORATED or PRI OF BUSINESS IN THIS | | []4[]4 | FOREIGN NAT | rion | []6 []6 |
| PLAINTIFF(S) ADDRE | SS(ES) AND COU | JNTY(IES) | | | | | |
| DEFENDANT(S) ADDI | RESS(ES) AND C | OUNTY(IES) | | | | | |
| DEFENDANT(S) ADDI REPRESENTATION IS H THE RESIDENCE ADDR | EREBY MADE THA | T, AT THIS TIME, I HA | | LE, WITH REAS | ONABLE DIL | LIGENCE, TO ASCI | ERTAIN |
| | | | | | | | |
| I hereby certify that this | case should be as | | THOUSE ASS use indicated t | | to Local Rul | le for Division of E | Business 18, 20 or 2 |
| Check one: THIS AC | CTION SHOULD | BE ASSIGNED TO | o: 🔲 WI | HITE PLAIN | IS <u>x</u> |] MANHATT | AN |
| DATE 01/29/2020 si | | 1 consu | | ADMITT | ED TO PRA | CTICE IN THIS DIS | STRICT |
| RECEIPT# | IGNATURE OF ATT | ORNEY OF RECORD | | [] NO [%] YES Attorney | (DATE ADM Bar Code # | MITTED Mo.March | Yr. <u>1985</u>) |
| Magistrate Judge is | to he designated | I by the Clerk of the | e Court | | | | |
| Magistrate Judge | - | • | | | is | so Designated | |
| Ruby J. Krajick, Cler | | | | | | - | |
| | | | • | | | • | |
| UNITED STATES DIST | IRICT COURT (N | EW YORK SOUTHE | KN) | | | | |

EXHIBIT A

| UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT |
|--------------------------------|
| SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK |

----- X

In re : Chapter 11

LIDDLE & ROBINSON, L.L.P.,¹ : Case No. 19-12346 (SHL)

Debtor. : (Jointly Administered with Case No. 19-

----- x 10747)

ORDER AUTHORIZING CERTAIN PAYMENTS PURSUANT TO MONTHLY FEE STATEMENTS

Upon consideration of the monthly fee statements for July, August, September, October, and November (collectively, the "Monthly Statements") [Docket Nos. 85, 107, 118, 119, 131, 134, 135, and 140] of Foley Hoag LLP ("Foley Hoag"), EisnerAmper LLP ("EisnerAmper"), and the Benefit Practice ("TBP") (collectively, the "Professionals") seeking compensation for services rendered and reimbursement of expenses in accordance with the *Order Establishing Procedures for Interim Compensation and Reimbursement of Expenses of Professionals*, dated September 4, 2019 [Docket No. 48]; and Counsel Financial II LLC, LIG Capital LLC and Counsel Financial Holdings LLC having filed a series of objections to the Monthly Statements [Docket Nos. 95, 128, 150, and 151] (collectively, the "Objections"); and the Court having held a hearing (the "Hearing") on December 19, 2019, to consider the Monthly Statements and the Objections; and the Court having heard arguments of counsel at the Hearing; and the Court having overruled the Objections and authorized certain payments of fees and reimbursements of expenses pursuant to the Monthly Statements; and the Court also having directed the appointment of a Chapter 11 trustee in the Liddle & Robinson, L.L.P. case (the "Corporate Case") at the Hearing; and the United States

¹ The last four digits of Liddle & Robinson, L.L.P.'s taxpayer identification number are 6440.

19-12346-shl Doc 214 Filed 01/29/20 Entered 01/29/20 20:48:53 Main Document Pa 13 of 13

Trustee having appointed Jonathan L. Flaxer, as trustee (the "Trustee"); and the Court having

approved the Trustee's appointment; and the Trustee having authorized Jeffrey Liddle, principal

of Liddle & Robinson, L.L.P., to make certain payments to the Professionals pursuant to the

Monthly Statements in accordance with the Court's ruling at the Hearing by check or wire on

December 30, 2019, subject to entry of a court order authorizing the payments within ten (10) days

therefrom; it is hereby

ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED THAT:

1. Mr. Liddle's payment of 60% of the fees and 100% of the expenses to Foley Hoag

and EisnerAmper in the amounts of \$261,232.76 and \$12,376.86, respectively, is approved.

2. The Benefit Practice's application of \$7,512.50 of the retainer it previously

received in the amount of \$7,308.60, against the fees and expenses incurred in its Monthly

Statements is approved.

3. The Trustee's consent and authority granted to Mr. Liddle to make any payments

from the Debtor's bank account is hereby terminated.

4. The Court's authorization of certain fees and expenses under this Order is without

prejudice to the Professionals' rights to seek approval of the fees and expenses held back and not

approved in the Monthly Statements on proper notice at a subsequent time.

Dated: January 15, 2020

New York, New York

/s/ Sean H. Lane

HONORABLE SEAN H. LANE

UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY JUDGE